

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/518,899

Applicant(s)

BOSMA ET AL.

Examiner

Robert P. Swiatek

Art Unit

3643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 6 July 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-25.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

ROBERT P. SWIATEK
PRIMARY EXAMINER

ART UNIT 3643

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims in this application have been allowed because the prior art does not disclose a method comprising: retrieving information regarding the health of each of a number of milking animals entering a resting, milking, or feeding station; ascertaining the health of each animal based on the retrieved information; automatically disinfecting or sterilizing at least a portion of the resting, milking, or feeding station when it is ascertained that an animal entering the station has a transmittable infection, with disinfection or sterilization occurring after the infected animal has left the station; and preventing further animals from entering the station until disinfection or sterilization has been effected. A device (as recited in instant claim 16) for accomplishing the method also was not disclosed by the prior art. The prior art includes devices and methods for cleaning teat cups and clusters and a milking station with a sprayer for washing an animal's udder. A reference to van der Lely et al. (US 6,237,530 B1) describes a control room used in conjunction with animal milking apparatus; an operator entering the control room walks through a hygienic gateway, which cleans or sanitizes one or both of the operator's clothes and shoes. None of these references sets forth an apparatus having elements for ascertaining the health of an animal, disinfecting at least a portion of a station used by an animal determined to be infected, and preventing other animals from entering the station until the disinfecting process is complete.

Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

This case is being passed to issue with allowed claims 1-25.

RPS: 0571/272-6894

24 July 2007

Robert P. Swiatek
ROBERT P. SWIATEK
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT ~~221~~ 3643